

# Five rides worth waking up early for

Wineries, waterfalls, a record-breaking railway, lunch on the oldest bridge — and the lake watching over you the whole way.

01

## Virpazar – Rijeka Crnojevića - Gradac: the big loop

Waterfall swimming, a mountaintop coffee break and lunch in a century-old stone house

Hard

51 km

Full day

Loop

This is the one you tell people about. Leave Virpazar and skip the steep ramp, a village trail through Poseljani leads you quietly through the forest to a waterfall and cold natural pools made for a mid-morning swim. The climb toward Macalov Brijeg earns one of the most dramatic coffee stops in all of Montenegro. Then drop down to Rijeka Crnojevića — a village that quietly holds one of the most important cultural sites in the Balkans — before the final 9 km climb to Etno Village Vakati for a feast worth every metre of elevation.

### ROUTE STOPS

- **Virpazar - start**

Get going early — this day is full and it rewards patience

- **Poseljani & waterfall trail** swim break

A forest path that bypasses the main ramp — quieter, more beautiful, and it ends with a waterfall you can actually jump into

- **Macalov Brijeg - coffee break** stop

Panoramic views, strong coffee, no rush. One of those spots where nobody checks the time.

- **Rijeka Crnojevića** stop

Home to the ruins of the first printing press among Southern Slavs — where the first Cyrillic book was printed in 1494. A small village carrying an outsized piece of history.

- **Etno Village Vakati** optional 10% discount

Lunch alternative directly on the first bridge - 10% group discount. Three menu options — €45/person full set with drinks and dessert included.

*Pro tip: Book Konoba Gradac at least 2 days ahead - small kitchen, high demand. The waterfall swim is best early, before the afternoon sun warms the rocks.*

## Virpazar – Train through Crmnica valley

*An old railway, horses by the lake and a winery at the end*

Easy

3 hours - half day

Loop

Kid-friendly

★ Our top pick for families with children. Short distance, flat sections, a real train ride, and horses — kids remember this one for years. No experience needed.

A relaxed half-day that feels like an adventure. Start at the railway station in Virpazar — a charming little stop that sets the tone for the whole ride — and pedal gently toward Stanica Crmnice. The flat, shaded sections make it approachable for younger riders, and the horse ranch before the station gives kids (and adults) a proper reason to stop. Limited access to cars, almost no traffic, nothing to stress about. From there, the route loops to Limljani, the famous wine region towards city center Virpazar and back to the train station.

### ROUTE STOPS

- **Virpazar railway station**

The ride begins right at the station — a characterful little building that doubles as your landmark and meeting point

- **Horse ranch — before Stanica Crmnice** **reservation required**

Beginner-friendly rides, no cars around, right by the station. Kids go first, always. Book via flyer, no walk-ins.

- **Winery Ukusi Tradicija – optional detour** **reservation required**

Family winery with local wines, honey and brandy, intimate tastings in a home setting. Recommended stop, not to be missed.

- **Limljani → Virpazar — return ride**

Easy pedal along the main road with lake views the whole way back

*Family note: The section from Stanica Crmnice to Virpazar follows the main road — short and manageable, but good to know in advance with young children. Horse riding is beginner and child-safe; confirm your booking the day before.*

**03**

## Virpazar – Godinje – Murići (optional): chestnut forest and lakeshore

*A village winery, a sandy beach and a forest that stops you in your tracks*

**Medium**

4h – half day

Full day with Murići

Out and back

Godinje looks like the 19th century never really left — and that's a compliment. Ancient stone terraces, olive trees, and Winery Garnet tucked into the hillside keeping the traditions of Montenegrin Crmnica wine alive. Scenic views ease the ascent to the lake, where a rare sandy beach on Skadar waits for a break. For adventurous ones there's a long way to the Murići Beach, with only women's monastery Beška. The route returns the same way - which somehow never feels the same twice.

### ROUTE STOPS

- **Virpazar - start**

Morning start recommended — beach time works best at midday

- **Godinje - Winery Garnet** **reservation required**

Tasting Vranac and Kratosija in a stone village setting. Ask about the older vintages.

- **Sandy beach - lake break** **swimming stop**

A rare sandy beach on Skadar Lake, perfect for a picnic on the grass and a refreshing swim

- **Murići - chestnut forest** **optional detour**

One of Montenegro's most beautiful forests - quiet, fragrant, cinematic. Just 10 minutes off the main route.

- **Return to Virpazar**

Same trail back, late afternoon light makes it look entirely different

*Winery tip: Garnet receives small groups only - let them know how many you are when booking. Murići forest is unmissable in autumn when the chestnuts turn golden.*

**04**

## Virpazar – Orahovo – Dupilo: half a day by the river

*A riverside camp, morning coffee on the water and a village that time forgot*

**Medium****3h – half day****Out and back**

Short and quietly magnificent. This route is for those who want to clear their head without spending an entire day in the saddle. The ride from Virpazar to Orahovo follows the river Oraoštica, the kind of scenery that doesn't get old. Coffee break in Orahovo is a camp restaurant sitting right on the water: coffee, breakfast, a wooden terrace and the sound of the river doing all the talking. Dupilo is the natural turnaround, sit on a bench, look around, understand why people have lived here for centuries.

### ROUTE STOPS

- **Virpazar - start**

Railway station is the starting point

- **Orahovo - Coffee Break stop**

Camp restaurant on the river, coffee, fresh juice, light bites. Stay as long as you want.

- **Dupilo - turnaround point**

A small village with a big view of the lake, the perfect place to breathe before heading back

- **Return to Virpazar**

Same path - no rush, the light is different on the way back

*Morning tip: River Break is ideal as a breakfast stop, come hungry, sit on the terrace above the river, and order the local spread before heading toward Dupilo.*

**05**

## Virpazar – Sutorman – Zabes: the Guinness record loop

*A world record, a mountain ridge and a winery to end it all*

**Medium**

Minimum 3hrs – half day

**Loop**

This one has a story to tell at dinner. The ride starts in Virpazar and heads through Limljani, a stretched, long village that curves through the valley so many times that King Nikola's old railway "Ćiro" passed through it five times, earning it a place in the Guinness World Records as the village with the most railway stations in the world. Winery Ukusi Tradicija, where local wine, cheese and cured meat close out everything the day has given you. From there the route climbs toward Sutorman, a forested ridge above the lake with sweeping views that appear without warning at the top. The descent brings you to Zabes. The loop returns to Virpazar. The circle is complete.

### ROUTE STOPS

- **Virpazar - start**

A full loop, you leave and return to the same place, but as a different person

- **Limljani – Winery Ukus i Tradicija** **reservation required**

Local wine and prosciutto while your legs rest.

This is also a Guinness record station. In November 1908, King Nikola's railway "Ćiro" ran its first route between Bar and Virpazar at a top speed of 25 km/h. The village of Limljani was so long and stretched that the line passed through it five times earning it a place in the Guinness World Records as the village with the most railway stations in the world. One local even bet he could outrun the train between two stations. He won.

- **Sutorman - forest ridge**

The climb through the forest opens suddenly into a panorama above the lake, one of the best payoffs on any route around Skadar

- **Return to Virpazar**

The loop closes. You're already thinking about which route to do tomorrow.

*Winery note: Ukusi Tradicije is a small family operation confirm the day before and mention your group size.*